

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-35 Cancelled

36. (Currently Amended) An artificial ski slope surface for laying on an underlying surface, said artificial surface comprising:

a looped filament carpet comprising a backing sheet with filaments woven through said backing sheet to provide a pile which is continuous across the backing sheet, the pile providing a low friction surface simulating a snow surface; and

a base layer for fixing to the underlying surface and being configured to allow excess fluid to be drained away from the carpet and the provide that ~~provides drainage and cushioning, the base layer being fixed to the underlying surface and the carpet being releasably attached to said base layer.~~

37. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said base layer is attached to the underlying surface using fixing pins.

38. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said looped filament carpet has a construction whereby said filaments are woven through said backing sheet to provide loops.

39. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said filaments are made of at least one of polypropylene, PVC or nylon.

40. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said backing sheet is made of an absorbent material.

41. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface of claim 40, wherein said backing sheet is made of moisture retaining felt.

42. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface of claim 36, wherein said woven filaments are configured to retain water.

43. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said carpet is releasably attached to said base layer using a loop and hook arrangement.

44. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said carpet comprises at least two individual tessellating sections, each section comprising a projection along at least one edge, said projection being adapted to be releasably attached to the underside of a tessellating section.

45. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said carpet is provided with a plurality of attachment strips secured to an underside of said carpet.

46. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein the woven filaments have a random directional weave pattern.

47. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein the woven filaments have at least two different heights.

48. (Previously Presented) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 47, wherein the difference in height between the shortest and longest loops is at least 15% of the height of the shortest loop.

49. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing an artificial ski slope, said method comprising the steps:

attaching a base layer configured to allow excess fluid to be drained away and to provide drainage and cushioning to an underlying surface; and
releasably attaching a looped filament carpet to said base layer, said carpet comprising a backing sheet to provide a pile which is continuous across said backing sheet, the pile providing a low friction surface simulating a snow surface.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of constructing an artificial ski slope as claimed in claim 49, wherein the step of releasably attaching uses a hook and loop mechanisms.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said step of releasably attaching said carpet to said base layer further includes:

separately attaching a plurality of sections of said carpet to said base layer such that each section is also releasably attached to one or more adjacent sections.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein:
said plurality of sections tessellate.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, including:
providing said plurality of sections with a projection along at least one edge; and
releasably attaching said projection to the underside of a tessellating section.

54. (New) An artificial ski slope wherein the base layer when releasably attached to the carpet extends across substantially all of the carpet.

55. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 47, wherein the woven filaments have a height and the height of the filaments is selected to provide an optimum speed of travel over the surface for a particular use of ski level.

56. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein the base layer comprises fibres configured to form a random matrix and contained between an upper sheet and a lower sheet of material, with at least the upper sheet being made of water permeable material.

57. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the base layer when releasably attached to the carpet extends across substantially all of the carpet.